

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ALASKA'S RICH VARIETY OF SEABIRDS PROFIED IN NEW WILDLIFE PORTRAIT SERIES

The aerial high-dives of fork-tailed storm petrels and laysan albatross far out to sea, the clownish antics of a group of brightly colored horned and tufted puffins, the frenzy of agitated colonies of noisy black-legged kittiwakes and Arctic terns have all been captured in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's new series of wildlife portraits, "A Host of Seabirds - Alaska."

The swirling profusion of bird life that each summer embellishes the coast of Alaska forms a rich and varied tapestry as 140,000,000 seabirds crowd the waters of the Nation's most diverse State.

Bob Hines, the Service's National Wildlife Artist, captured six of these scenes on canvas as he travelled Alaska from the Chukchi Sea through the full length of the Aleutians to the wooded islands of the southeast corner of the State in the summer of 1978. His acrylic paintings are now reproduced in this set of prints that is the fourth in the agency's series of wildlife portraits.

Hines accompanied several photographers and Fish and Wildlife Service biologists on low-level overflights of colonial rookery areas during nesting season, venturing close enough to observe the birds while still far enough away to avoid disturbing their delicate breeding habits in these protected sanctuaries. Hines also traveled by foot, in his words, "sketching, listening, and learning" amid the fortress-like cliffs and craggy nooks of these rookery islands.

The six scenes in "A Host of Seabirds - Alaska" include "Parrots of the Sea" (horned and tufted puffins, parakeet auklets), "Marine Apartments" (high-rise "sea stacks" with double-crested cormorants and common murre), "High Arctic Summer" (jaegers and Arctic terns), "Unique Alaskans" (red-legged kittiwakes and an Arctic fox), "Home Defense" (black-legged kittiwakes and a bald eagle), and "A Host of Millions" (storm petrels, shearwaters, and albatross).

The scenes (16 x 22) are printed on high-quality paper and are suitable for framing. They are titled and bordered and are mailed flat in reinforced envelopes. Each set sells for \$5.00. A 12-page booklet describing each scene accompanies the set. A companion group of prints on the marine resources of Alaska is also forthcoming.

"A Host of Seabirds - Alaska" is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (specify "Wildlife Portrait Series No. 4" and stock number 024-010-00530-1).